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ASSOCIATION OF
AMERICAN RAILROADS
OFFICE OF INFORMATION AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS
1920 L STREET, N.W. · WASHINGTON, D.C. 20036 · 202/293-4196

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, September 25, 1980 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended September 20 totaled an estimated 17.9 billion ton-miles, 2.4 percent below the corresponding week a year ago, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Cumulative volume for the first 38 weeks of 1980 was an estimated 665 billion ton-miles, 1.1 percent above the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings in the week ended September 20 totaled 452,035 cars, 6.7 percent below 1979, and virtually the same as the preceding week of this year. Compared with last year, loadings were down 9.9 percent in the East, 2.3 percent in the South, and 7.0 percent in the West.

Compared with the corresponding week of 1979, 17 of the 21 commodity groups were down, although coal loadings were up 8,700 cars, or 7.9 percent; and grain showed an increase of 2,979 cars, or 9.9 percent. Twelve of the 21 groups were up from the preceding week of this year.

Piggyback

The AAR also reported that piggyback revenue freight traffic on major railroads for the week ended September 13 totaled 32,262 cars, down 8.7 percent from the corresponding holiday week of 1979, and 58,405 trailers and/or containers, 5.1 percent lower than last year.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 37 weeks of the year was 1,179,907 cars, 10.6 percent lower than last year, and 2,149,276 trailers and/or containers, down 7.7 percent.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 9/20/80:

	Loadings in Week ended September 20, 1980	Change from Corresponding Week 1979			Change from Preceding Week		
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	33,181	I	2,979	9.9	D	128	0.4
Other farm products	4,259	I	614	16.8	I	332	8.5
Metallic ores	28,265	D	9,234	24.6	I	1,359	5.1
Coal	119,225	I	8,700	7.9	D	900	0.7
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	15,619	D	2,245	12.6	I	345	2.3
Nonmetallic minerals	16,262	D	1,061	6.1	D	913	5.3
Grain mill products	17,524	I	60	0.3	D	490	2.7
Food and kindred products	18,747	D	387	2.0	D	42	0.2
Primary forest products	19,025	D	1,568	7.6	D	1,192	5.9
Lumber and wood products except furniture	9,322	D	3,270	26.0	I	461	5.2
Pulp, paper and allied products	20,647	D	632	3.0	I	67	0.3
Chemicals and allied products	26,734	D	1,349	4.8	I	323	1.2
Petroleum products	5,588	D	611	9.9	D	518	8.5
Stone, clay and glass products	16,008	D	3,581	18.3	D	859	5.1
Coke	4,308	D	1,741	28.8	I	621	16.8
Metals and products	14,851	D	3,791	20.3	I	724	5.1
Motor vehicles and equipment	16,934	D	4,230	20.0	I	771	4.8
Waste and scrap materials	12,475	D	1,473	10.6	I	192	1.6
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	11,075	D	3,319	23.1	I	433	4.1
All other carloads	41,722	D	6,344	13.2	D	405	1.0
LCL traffic	264	D	111	29.6	I	16	6.5
Total Cars Loaded	452,035	D	32,594	6.7	I	197	0.0
Corresponding week of 1979	484,629						

	1980	1979	%	Change
Total Cars Loaded (38 weeks)	16,492,259	17,419,615	D	5.3
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):				
37 weeks cumulative	647.5	639.7	I	1.2
Week ended September 20	17.9	18.4	D	2.4
38 weeks cumulative	665.4	658.1	I	1.1

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